

physicians who have given opinions on the driver's qualifications.

(8) The applicant must submit a description and a copy of all written and documentary evidence upon which the party making application relies in the form set out in 49 CFR 386.37.

(9) The application must be accompanied by a statement of the driver that he/she intends to drive in interstate commerce not subject to the commercial zone exemption or a statement of the carrier that he/she has used or intends to use the driver for such work.

(10) The applicant must submit three copies of the application and all records.

(c) *Information.* The Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards may request further information from the applicant if he/she determines that a decision cannot be made on the evidence submitted. If the applicant fails to submit the information requested, the Director may refuse to issue a determination.

(d)(1) *Action.* Upon receiving a satisfactory application the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards shall notify the parties (the driver, motor carrier, or any other interested party) that the application has been accepted and that a determination will be made. A copy of all evidence received shall be attached to the notice.

(2) *Reply.* Any party may submit a reply to the notification within 15 days after service. Such reply must be accompanied by all evidence the party wants the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards to consider in making his/her determination. Evidence submitted should include all medical records and test results upon which the party relies.

(3) *Parties.* A party for the purposes of this section includes the motor carrier and the driver, or anyone else submitting an application.

(e) *Petitions to review, burden of proof.* The driver or motor carrier may petition to review the Director's determination. Such petition must be submitted in accordance with §386.13(a) of this chapter. The burden of proof in such a proceeding is on the petitioner.

(f) *Status of driver.* Once an application is submitted to the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards, the driver shall be deemed disqualified until such time as the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards makes a determination, or until the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards orders otherwise.

(49 U.S.C. 304, 322; 18 U.S.C. 831-835; Pub. L. 93-633, 88 Stat. 8156 (49 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*); 49 CFR 1.48, 301.60)

[42 FR 18081, Apr. 5, 1977, as amended at 42 FR 53966, Oct. 4, 1977; 60 FR 38746, July 28, 1995]

§ 391.49 Waiver of certain physical defects.

(a) A person who is not physically qualified to drive under §391.41(b) (1) or (2) and who is otherwise qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle, may drive a commercial motor vehicle, if the Regional Director of Motor Carriers has granted a waiver to that person.

(b) A letter of application for a waiver may be submitted jointly by the person who seeks a waiver of the physical disqualification (driver applicant) and by the motor carrier that will employ the driver applicant if the application is granted. The application must be addressed to the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the coapplicant motor carrier's principal place of business is located. The address for each regional office is listed in §390.27 of this subchapter. *Exception.* A letter of application for a waiver may be submitted unilaterally by a driver applicant. The application must be addressed to the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the driver has legal residence. The address of each regional office is listed in §390.27 of this subchapter. The driver applicant must comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section except paragraphs (c)(1) (i) and (iii). The driver applicant shall respond to the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) (i) to (v) of this section, if the information is known.

(c) A letter of application for a waiver shall contain—

(1) Identification of the applicant(s):

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- (i) Name and complete address of the motor carrier coapplicant;
 - (ii) Name and complete address of the driver applicant;
 - (iii) The Federal Highway Administration Motor Carrier Identification Number, if known; and
 - (iv) A description of the driver applicant's limb impairment for which waiver is requested.
- (2) Description of the type of operation the driver will be employed to perform:
- (i) State(s) in which the driver will operate for the motor carrier coapplicant (if more than 10 States, designate general geographic area only);
 - (ii) Average period of time the driver will be driving and/or on duty, per day;
 - (iii) Type of commodities or cargo to be transported;
 - (iv) Type of driver operation (i.e. sleeper-team, relay, owner operator, etc.); and
 - (v) Number of years experience operating the type of commercial motor vehicle(s) requested in the letter of application and total years of experience operating all types of motor vehicles.
- (3) Description of the commercial motor vehicle(s) the driver applicant intends to drive:
- (i) Truck, truck-tractor, or bus make, model, and year (if known);
 - (ii) Drive train;
 - (A) Transmission type (automatic or manual—if manual, designate number of forward speeds);
 - (B) Auxiliary transmission (if any) and number of forward speeds; and
 - (C) Rear axle (designate single speed, 2 speed, or 3 speed).
 - (iii) Type of brake system;
 - (iv) Steering, manual or power assisted;
 - (v) Description of type of trailer(s) (i.e., van, flat bed, cargo tank, drop frame, lowboy, or pole);
 - (vi) Number of semitrailers or full trailers to be towed at one time;
 - (vii) For commercial motor vehicles designed to transport passengers, indicate the seating capacity of the commercial motor vehicle; and
 - (viii) Description of any modification(s) made to the commercial motor vehicle for the driver applicant; attach photograph(s) where applicable.
- (4) Otherwise qualified:

- (i) The coapplicant motor carrier must certify that the driver applicant is otherwise qualified under the regulations of this part;
 - (ii) In the case of a unilateral application, the driver applicant must certify that (s)he is otherwise qualified under the regulations of this part.
- (5) Signature of applicant(s):
- (i) Driver applicant's signature and date signed;
 - (ii) Motor carrier official's signature (if application has a coapplicant), title, and date signed. Dependent upon the motor carrier's organizational structure (corporation, partnership, or proprietorship), this signer of the application shall be an officer, partner, or the proprietor.
- (d) The letter of application for a waiver shall be accompanied by:
- (1) A copy of the results of the medical examination performed pursuant to § 391.43;
 - (2) A copy of the medical certificate completed pursuant to § 391.43(e);
 - (3) A medical evaluation summary completed by either a board qualified or board certified physiatrist (doctor of physical medicine) or orthopedic surgeon;
- NOTE: The coapplicant motor carrier or the driver applicant shall provide the physiatrist or orthopedic surgeon with a description of the job tasks the driver applicant will be required to perform.
- (i) The medical evaluation summary for a driver applicant disqualified under § 391.41(b)(1) shall include:
 - (A) An assessment of the functional capabilities of the driver as they relate to the ability of the driver to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle, and
 - (B) A statement by the examiner that the applicant is capable of demonstrating precision prehension (e.g., manipulating knobs and switches) and power grasp prehension (e.g., holding and maneuvering the steering wheel) with each upper limb separately. This requirement does not apply to an individual who was granted a waiver, absent a prosthetic device, prior to the publication of this amendment.
 - (ii) The medical evaluation summary for a driver applicant disqualified under § 391.41(b)(2) shall include:

(A) An explanation as to how and why the impairment interferes with the ability of the applicant to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle;

(B) An assessment and medical opinion of whether the condition will likely remain medically stable over the lifetime of the driver applicant; and

(C) A statement by the examiner that the applicant is capable of demonstrating precision prehension (e.g., manipulating knobs and switches) and power grasp prehension (e.g., holding and maneuvering the steering wheel) with each upper limb separately. This requirement does not apply to an individual who was granted a waiver, absent an orthotic device, prior to the publication of this amendment.

(4) A description of the driver applicant's prosthetic or orthotic device worn, if any, by the driver applicant;

(5) Road test:

(i) A copy of the driver applicant's road test administered by the motor carrier coapplicant and the certificate issued pursuant to § 391.31 (b) through (g); or

(ii) A unilateral applicant shall be responsible for having a road test administered by a motor carrier or a person who is competent to administer the test and evaluate its results.

(6) Application for employment:

(i) A copy of the driver applicant's application for employment completed pursuant to § 391.21; or

(ii) A unilateral applicant shall be responsible for submitting a copy of the last commercial driving position's employment application s/he held. If not previously employed as a commercial driver, so state.

(7) A copy of the driver applicant's waiver of certain physical defects issued by the individual State(s), where applicable; and

(8) A copy of the driver applicant's State Motor Vehicle Driving Record for the past 3 years from each State in which a motor vehicle driver's license or permit has been obtained.

(e) *Agreement.* A motor carrier that employs a driver with a waiver agrees to:

(1) File promptly (within 30 days) with the Regional Director of Motor Carriers such documents and informa-

tion as may be required about driving activities, accidents, arrests, license suspensions, revocations, or withdrawals, and convictions which involve the driver applicant. This applies whether the driver's waiver is a unilateral one or has a coapplicant motor carrier;

(i) A motor carrier who is a coapplicant must file the required documents with the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the carrier's principal place of business is located; or

(ii) A motor carrier who employs a driver who has been issued a unilateral waiver must file the required documents with the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the driver has legal residence.

(2) Evaluate the driver with a road test using the trailer the motor carrier intends the driver to transport or, in lieu of, accept a certificate of a trailer road test from another motor carrier if the trailer type(s) is similar or accept the trailer road test done during the Skill Performance Evaluation if it is a similar trailer type(s) to that of the prospective motor carrier;

NOTE: Job tasks, as stated in paragraph (e)(3) of this section, are not evaluated in the Skill Performance Evaluation.

(3) Evaluate the driver for those non-driving safety-related job tasks associated with whatever type of trailer(s) will be used and any other nondriving safety-related or job-related tasks unique to the operations of the employing motor carrier; and

(4) Use the driver to operate the type of commercial motor vehicle defined in the waiver only when the driver is in compliance with the conditions and limitations of the waiver.

(f) The driver shall supply each employing motor carrier with a copy of the waiver.

(g) The Regional Director of Motor Carriers may require the driver applicant to demonstrate his or her ability to safely operate the commercial motor vehicle(s) the driver intends to drive to an agent of the Regional Director of Motor Carriers. The waiver form will identify the power unit (bus, truck, truck-tractor) for which the waiver has been granted. The waiver forms will also identify the trailer type

used in the Skill Performance Evaluation; however, the waiver is not limited to that specific trailer type. A driver may use the waiver with other trailer types if a successful trailer road test is completed in accordance with paragraph (e)(2) of this section. Job tasks, as stated in paragraph (e)(3) of this section, are not evaluated during the Skill Performance Evaluation.

(h) The Regional Director of Motor Carriers may deny the application for waiver or may grant it totally or in part and issue the waiver subject to such terms, conditions, and limitations as deemed consistent with the public interest. A waiver is valid for a period not to exceed 2 years from date of issue, and may be renewed 30 days prior to the expiration date.

(i) The waiver renewal application shall be submitted to the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the driver has legal residence, if the waiver was issued unilaterally. If the waiver has a coapplicant, then the renewal application is submitted to the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the region in which the coapplicant motor carrier's principal place of business is located. The waiver renewal application shall contain the following:

(1) Name and complete address of motor carrier currently employing the applicant;

(2) Name and complete address of the driver;

(3) Effective date of the current waiver;

(4) Expiration date of the current waiver;

(5) Total miles driven under the current waiver;

(6) Number of accidents incurred while driving under the current waiver, including date of the accident(s), number of fatalities, number of injuries, and the estimated dollar amount of property damage;

(7) A current medical examination report;

(8) A medical evaluation summary pursuant to paragraph (d)(3) of this section if an unstable medical condition exists. All handicapped conditions classified under § 391.41(b)(1) are considered unstable.

NOTE: Refer to paragraph (d)(3)(ii) of this section for the condition under § 391.41(b)(2) which may be considered medically stable.

(9) A copy of driver's current State motor vehicle driving record for the period of time the current waiver has been in effect;

(10) Notification of any change in the type of tractor the driver will operate;

(11) Driver's signature and date signed; and

(12) Motor carrier coapplicant's signature and date signed.

(j) Upon granting a waiver, the Regional Director of Motor Carriers will notify the driver applicant and coapplicant motor carrier (if applicable) by letter. The terms, conditions, and limitations of the waiver will be set forth. A motor carrier shall maintain a copy of the waiver in its driver qualification file. A copy of the waiver shall be retained in the motor carrier's file for a period of 3 years after the driver's employment is terminated. The driver applicant shall have the waiver (or a legible copy) in his/her possession whenever on duty.

(k) The Regional Director of Motor Carriers may revoke a waiver after the person to whom it was issued is given notice of the proposed revocation and has been allowed a reasonable opportunity to appeal.

(l) Falsifying information in the letter of application, the renewal application, or falsifying information required by this section by either the applicant or motor carrier is prohibited.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2125-0080)

[48 FR 38487, Aug. 24, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 38293, Sept. 28, 1984; 50 FR 49851, Dec. 5, 1985; 51 FR 12621, Apr. 14, 1986; 60 FR 38745, 38746, July 28, 1995; 61 FR 1843, Jan. 24, 1996]

Subpart F—Files and Records

§ 391.51 General requirements for driver qualification files.

(a) Each motor carrier shall maintain a driver qualification file for each driver it employs. A driver's qualification file may be combined with his/her personnel file.

(b) The qualification file for a driver must include: